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SUCCESS OVER SEX MESSAGE

NEW figures show health chiefs are winning the battle to cut teenage pregnancy in some of Banbury's most deprived areas.

The conception rate for those aged 15 to 17 has fallen from 103.4 per 1,000 girls to 57 over eight years in Grimsbury and Castle.

The rate in Ruscote fell from 79 to 57 during the same period, 2002/04 to 2008/10.

The county's public health chief Dr Jonathan McWilliam said: "This work has helped to almost halve the teenage conception rate in Grimsbury and Castle, which is good news.

"But we won't become complacent and will continue to work hard to highlight the

By Oliver Evans

advice and support services that are available to young people."

Health improvement principal Donna Husband said: "A partnership approach, involving the NHS, the county council and the voluntary sector, about giving clear messages about contraception has been channelled towards certain areas of the county where teenage pregnancy levels have been higher than elsewhere, including in Grimsbury and Castle.

"Increasing young people's knowledge about their own sexual health and how to access contraception means that they are better protected and clued

up about safer sex."

Initiatives include advice at Banbury's Early Intervention Hub, in Hilton Road, and clinics at the Orchard Health Centre, Cope Road.

Pharmacies have also given out free emergency hormone contraception and free condoms through a "C-Card" key-fob scheme.

These have helped see the county's conception rate fall from 31.4 per 1,000 girls in 1998 to 22.4 per cent in 2011.

In 1998 there were 345 conceptions but this had fallen to 254 in 2011.

Yet about half of the conceptions still resulted in abortions.

Dr McWilliam said: "Overall, the Oxfordshire under-18

conception rate is dropping, broadly in line with rates in England.

"Oxfordshire has the 12th 'best' rates for all local authorities in the country and those local authorities with lower rates tend to be smaller authorities in leafy shires with few areas of disadvantage."

The figures were welcomed by Margaret Cullip, a member for Banbury Grimsbury and Castle on Cherwell District Council.

She said: "The schools are doing an awful lot of work on education, so I hope the message is getting through.

"It is great to hear. I hope they will continue doing the same and will continue to do more."

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Supermarket hope

A PLANNED extension to Banbury's Castle Quay shopping centre will have a supermarket, developers have revealed.

The announcement means Cherwell District Council has dropped plans for a supermarket at a redevelopment in Bolton Road.

A planning application is to be submitted by the end of next month for the Castle Quay plan, a bid to extend the centre by 25 per cent.

The scheme would include a cinema, shops, bars and restaurants and could create up to 3,000 jobs, the Scottish Widows Investment Partnership said.

Discussions were taking place with a "high-end" food retailer but the developer would not reveal names.

The extension would go on the north car park, with the hotel on the south side of the canal.

It said the supermarket

"is committed to providing free car parking to customers visiting its flagship Banbury store".

The developer said: "Further car parking facilities were being considered, in addition to the provision already being made at ground level for the food retailer, in order to accommodate the additional footfall expected at the shopping centre."

It said the extension would be completed by 2015, if planning permission was granted by the district council.

Public consultation events will be held next month at dates and venues to be announced.

The district council said the supermarket it was in talks with was now looking at the Castle Quay site.

Spokesman Janet Ferris said: "Bolton Road is currently earmarked for retail/commercial development, but we are



An artist's impression of what the Castle Quay extension would look like

not currently in negotiation with any supermarkets for this site."

The news comes after Scottish Widows launched a High Court challenge over an out-of-town retail park – to include a Marks & Spencer – near Junction 11 of the M40.

The judicial review – also backed by Banbury Cross Retail Park – is over plans for a retail park at motorsport firm Prodrive, which would move to a site in Wildmere Industrial Estate.



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ALL WINDOWS MANUFACTURED IN BANBURY

InBRIEF

Dates for your diary

■ **EVENTS** honouring the armed forces and the traditional Town Mayor's Sunday will be held in the coming weeks.

Armed Forces Day will be held on Saturday, June 29, from 9am to 3pm in the town centre.

Attractions will include a paintball range, flight simulator, stalls and a parade, starting at Market Place at 11.30am.

The Town Mayor's Sunday will be held in People's Park, from 1pm to 4pm, on Sunday, July 7.

It will feature sport challenges, including football, tennis, cricket, sailing, badminton, boxing and others.

It will start with a civic procession from Banbury Town Hall at 12.15pm before a civic service at St Mary's Church at 12.30pm.

Jewellery theft

■ **RINGS**, necklaces, pendants, and earrings were taken by thieves in a raid on a home.

The burglary happened in Bettina Crescent, Banbury, between 12.30pm and 3.50pm on Friday, June 7.

Call police on 101 with information.

Keith Strangwood, the new chairman of the Keep the Horton General campaign



Hospital campaign group gets a new leader

FORMER county councillor Keith Strangwood has been named as the new chairman of the Keep the Horton General campaign group.

Mr Strangwood, who was a former member for Banbury Ruscote on Oxfordshire County Council until this

year's election, has a "wealth of contacts" the group said.

The group campaigns to keep services at the Horton General Hospital.

It has campaigned to keep maternity services and is currently calling for the return of emergency abdominal surgery,

removed in January over a shortage of doctors. Mr Strangwood, who takes over from George Parish, said: "We are all volunteers who give up our time and work as a team to ensure our much-loved Horton General Hospital retains all its needed services."

■ 'Claimants are responsible for keeping their records up to date'

New powers allow fines for benefit-claim errors

BENEFIT claimants face fines for giving incorrect or incomplete information after Cherwell District Council took on new powers.

The £50 penalties will be for claimants who negligently make an incorrect statement or give incorrect information.

Those who fail to provide required information or fail to notify a change in circumstances also face fines.

The authority is the first in Oxfordshire to take on powers allowed under the 2012 Welfare Reform Act.

It hopes the fines will tackle the millions it has overpaid to housing and council tax reduction scheme claimants.

By Oliver Evans

In the last financial year, some £982,783 was overpaid and some £2.4m in the previous two years.

More than 7,000 people claim benefits and the council last year paid out a total of £45.7m.

While 15 prosecutions recovered £196,534 last year, the council hopes the new powers will chop down on mistakes by claimants.

Lead member for financial planning committee Ken Atack said: "We want to make sure that the correct amount of benefit goes to those who are entitled."

"To do that we're reinforcing the message that claimants are

personally responsible for keeping their claim records correct and up to date.

"The new civil penalties do not apply to fraud cases, which the council's investigation team will continue to deal with separately."

The new fines will only apply to overpayments after October 1 last year, must be more than £150 and overpayments over a month.

Council spokesman Jemma Callow said: "Any fine income generated will be used to offset the cost of the council's fraud service, ensuring that we focus on reducing budgets to protect our front-line services and keeping our council tax rates frozen."



Cherwell's financial management chief Ken Atack

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Homes get go-ahead

PLANS for almost 1,000 homes have been approved by councillors.

Cherwell District Council's planning committee passed the four schemes last Thursday.

They include 350 homes off Warwick Road, north of Hanwell Fields, and 510 at Hardwick Farm, east of Southam Road, including a primary school.

A further 90 were approved

opposite the Southam Road site, north of Dukes Meadow Drive, and up to 44 on the playing field of Banbury Academy, Ruskin Road, to help pay for improved sports facilities.

All will need further permission for design and layout.

But the committee threw out plans for 65 homes at Milton Road, Adderbury, and 60 off Quarry Close, Bloxham.

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■ Petition launched to turn derelict building into new homes

Sign up to rid eyesore, says housing trust

A PETITION has been launched to back a bid to force the sale of an "eyesore" former hotel and offices for housing.

A housing group wants residents to support Cherwell District Council's plan for Crown House, Bridge Street.

The council is seeking a compulsory purchase order to force the sale of the boarded-up building for 40 affordable flats from Slighte Limited.

Local government secretary Eric Pickles will make a decision following a public inquiry.

Cherwell Community Land Trust, a not-for-profit organisation which promotes

By Oliver Evans

housing, has launched the petition.

Chairman Sheena Gow said: "Crown House has stood empty for more than two decades and it is a major eyesore and magnet for rough sleepers and antisocial behaviour."

She said: "At a time when there is a great need for housing across Cherwell how can we justify prominent buildings being left vacant when there is an opportunity to provide homes for residents?"

At present, there are 3,724 people on the housing register.

The petition will be at locations including Banbury Tourist Information Centre, Lakeside Superbowl and Sweet Celebrations in Church Lane.

The council hopes the development – for one and two-bedroom flats – will help it tackle its affordable housing waiting list.

The petition will be given to the council ahead of the public inquiry on September 3 and 4 at the council's White Post Lane, Bodicote HQ, which the public can attend.

Views can be sent to Environment Appeals, Administration Room, 3/25 Hawk Wing, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Bristol, BS1 6PN.



The boarded-up Crown House in Bridge Street, Banbury

InBRIEF

Sports plan veto

■ CONTROVERSIAL plans for a spectator stand and four floodlights at Easington Sports and Social Club have been rejected. Members of Cherwell District Council's planning committee refused the Addition Road plan last Thursday. Concerns about the 60-foot-high lights and stand included noise, traffic and highway safety.

Award for barriers

■ BANBURY'S flood alleviation scheme has been recognised in the Institution of Civil Engineers' South East England Engineering Excellence Awards 2013.

The Environment Agency's flood scheme won the environmental engineering category. The £18m scheme protects 400 homes and 70 businesses close to the M40 through barriers and by diverting flood water to a specially-dug embankment.

Fraud jury out

■ JURORS in the trial of two men accused of a fraud conspiracy, were continuing deliberations as the Banbury Cake was going to press. Mark Woodbridge, 42, and Nigel Horn, 58, deny planning to defraud shareholders of Torex Retail, which had an office in Banbury. Woodbridge, of Warwickshire, denies three charges of false accounting and two charges of conspiracy to defraud. Horn, of Bourton-on-the-Water, is accused of one count of conspiracy to defraud. The jury retired after a 13-week trial at Oxford Crown Court.



Pupils help create living sculptures in town's civic park

YOUNGSTERS helped brighten up Banbury when they took time out from lessons to plant flowers in People's Park.

About 250 pupils from schools that included William Morris County Primary School and Hanwell Fields Community School took part.

Last week's efforts produced floral recreations of famous landmarks, including Big Ben, the Taj Mahal and Stonehenge.

Mayor Nicholas Turner said: "Days like this give the children something to be proud of."

"They can come back to the park with their family and friends throughout the year to see the fruits of their labours."

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■ *Blackadder* star among the list of recipients

Queen honours a host of local people

THE achievements of people from across Oxfordshire have been recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honour's list.

Educators, academics, sports people and community figures are all on the list, released at the weekend to mark the Queen's official birthday.

The most familiar Oxfordshire name is actor and comedian Rowan Atkinson, who lives in Waterperry and becomes a CBE.

Meanwhile, the chief executive of the British Equestrian Federation, Andrew Robert Finding, who lives near Banbury, was awarded the OBE for services to equestrianism and the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The 62-year-old has headed up the national governing body for equestrian sport in Great Britain since 2000.

Mr Munday said: "As part of a team, where so many individuals have achieved so much, I am deeply honoured to receive this award on their behalf."

And another Oxfordshire resident, Sally Munday, the chief executive of Hockey England,

By Andrew Ffrench

said she was "humbled" by her selection for an MBE.

Ms Munday, 41, said: "I think to say I was surprised would be a massive understatement.

"If I'm going to be totally honest about it, I was a little embarrassed because there are so many people who give so much to our sport."

Charles Edward Hunter-Pease, of Beckley, who is a trustee of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, will take on the role of chairman from July this year.

He was awarded the OBE for services to maritime safety.

Mr Hunter-Pease has been an RNLI supporter for 22 years and involved in the RNLI's governance since 1996 when he became a member of the institution's council.

He has been a trustee since 2009.

During his two decades with the charity he worked on committees including fundraising, remuneration, membership nomination and property.

Now retired, Mr Hunter-Pease worked in the motor industry for Volvo from 1973 to 2007.



TOP: Rowan Atkinson



LEFT: Charles Hunter-Pease

BELOW: Andrew Finding

Full list of the local birthday honours

KNIGHTS BACHELOR
Andrew Dilnot, CBE, from Oxford. Chairman, UK Statistics Authority and Warden, Nuffield College, University of Oxford. For services to Economics and Economic Policy.

ORDER OF THE BATH (CB)
Paul Kirby, from Wallingford. Formerly director, No 10 Policy Unit. For services to public service reform.

ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE (OBE)
Professor Hermione Lee, CBE, of Oxford. President, Wolfson College and professor of English Literature, University of Oxford. For services to literary scholarship.

CBE
Professor Terence Cave, FBA, of Oxford. Emeritus Professor of French Literature, University of Oxford. For services to literary scholarship.

Sally Dicketts, of Oxford. Chief executive and principal, Oxford and Cherwell Valley College and chairman, Reading College. For services to

further education.

Robert Fleming, of Bicester. Philanthropist. For charitable services.

Professor Anthony Francis Heath, FBA, of Oxford. Professor of Sociology, University of Manchester and Emeritus Professor of Sociology University of Oxford. For services to social science.

Actor and comedian Rowan Atkinson, of Waterperry, near Wheatley.

OBE
Ann Black, of Oxford. Secretary, Constituency Labour Party, Oxford East. For parliamentary and political service.

Prof Peter Dobson, of Kidlington. Director, Oxford University, Begbroke Business and Science Park. For services to science and engineering.

Andrew Finding, of Banbury. Chief executive, British Equestrian Federation. For services to equestrianism and the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Charles Edward Hunter-Pease, of Beckley. Trustee, Royal National Lifeboat Institution. For services to maritime safety.

David Hutchison, of Abingdon. Chief executive officer, Social Finance. For services to finance.

Professor Julia Noble, of Oxford. Professor of Biomedical Engineering, University of Oxford. For services to science and engineering.

Pauline Odulinski, of Thame. Principal and chief executive, Aylesbury College. For services to further education.

Teresa Kelly, principal of Abingdon and Witney College, for services to further education and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities.

MBE
George Baker, of Kidlington. Senior officer, HM Prison Huntercombe. For services to the community.

Dr Lucy Carpenter, of Oxford. Emeritus Fellow, Nuffield



College, University of Oxford and secretary, Blackfriars Overseas Aid Trust, Oxford. For services to public health in the UK and abroad.

Sally Munday, of Chinnor. Chief executive, England Hockey and chief operating officer, Great Britain Hockey. For services to hockey.

Sheenagh Reynolds, of Oxford. Assistant director-Digital, DirectGov. For services to digital public services.

David Truesdale, of Haddenham. Co-founder, Leys Community Development Initiative, Oxford. For services to the community in Oxford.

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MP in Commons plea over war memorials

COMMUNITIES should restore war memorials and research the lives of the fallen to mark the centenary of the First World War, Banbury MP Sir Tony Baldry told the Commons.

He said: "Now is the time to ensure that our war memorials are repaired and restored."

He pointed to a recent book telling how many Deddington villagers played a role in the 1914 to 1918 conflict.

He said: "Every one of the people on a war memorial has a story: they were a person; they had a life."

■ Campaigners want better screening

Call to stem the rise in county's STD figures

HEALTH campaigners have called for more screening and better education after a rise in sexually transmitted diseases in the county.

Statistics from Public Health England show cases of gonorrhoea in Oxfordshire rose from 93 in 2011, to 157 last year. Cases of herpes rose to 313 from 298, and cases of syphilis increased to 22 from six.

The figures show that there were 4,844 cases of sexual transmitted

By Ben Wilkinson

diseases (STDs).

The most common sexual disease was chlamydia, with 1,647 diagnoses reported.

Grace Hinde, from the Terrence Higgins Trust sexual health charity, said more investment was needed to improve sex education at schools and also to increase sex disease screening campaigns.

She said: "Until we see a decline in these figures, it shows work still

needs to be done. We need more local investment across the country."

She warned that some STDs could be serious enough to cause infertility.

The rise in the number of gonorrhoea cases could be put down to a new strain that had emerged which was resistant to some drugs.

Oxfordshire GP Prit Buttar, a family doctor since 1991, said: "As long as I have been in medicine, I cannot remember a time when we haven't been told the numbers are going up.

"It is always a disappointment when people fall ill for avoidable reasons. But humans are humans. They will do irrational things. There is nothing more like alcohol or sex to make people act irrationally."

The organisation said the STD rates in the area suggested too many people were putting themselves at risk through unsafe sex.

Dr James Mapstone, interim director of the Thames Valley Public Health England Centre, said: "There have been significant improvements in screening in recent years, particularly for gonorrhoea and chlamydia among young adults and men who have sex with men. We are diagnosing and treating more infections than ever before.

"However, this data shows too many people are continuing to have unsafe sex, putting themselves at risk of STDs and the serious consequences associated with infection, including infertility.

"Ongoing investment in programmes to increase sexual health awareness, condom use and testing, particularly for groups at most risk, is vital."



Grace Hinde, from the Terrence Higgins Trust – the sexual health charity

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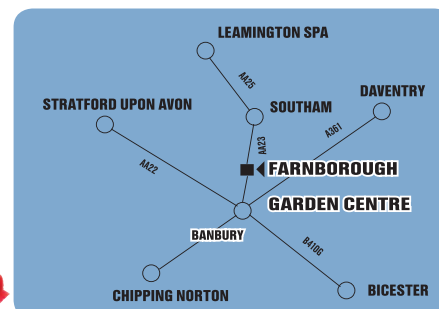
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■ Author launches book and stages exhibition of locally-made 'Quaker clocks'



Taking an historic step back in time

By Fran Bardsley

THE clocks were turned back for an unusual historic exhibition in Adderbury.

About 60 "Quaker clocks", which were made in the Adderbury area in the 18th century when it was at the heart of the North Oxfordshire Quaker clock-making tradition, were put on show.

The iron-posted hoop and spike clocks have distinctive ring and zig zag-engraved dials. Those on display were made in Sibford Gower, Adderbury, Deddington, Milton-under-Wychwood, Charlbury and Shipston on Stour.

The exhibition was held at Adderbury Meeting House, Horn Hill Road, and was hosted by Adderbury History Association,

curated by Tim Marshall and sponsored by Bonham's of Oxford.

Mr Marshall, who has written a book called *The Quaker Clockmakers of North Oxfordshire*, and which was launched at the event, said: "It went extremely well and was very successful."

"It was done not only to promote my book, but also to bring to everybody's attention the fact these North Oxfordshire hoop and spike clocks were distinctive to this particular area."

An estimated 700 people attended the exhibition.

ABOVE: Tim Marshall

LEFT: A visitor admires one of the Quaker clocks

RIGHT: A clock made by T & J Fardon, of Deddington

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Are you Gymophobic?

According to the Fitness Industry Association (FIA) only 12% of the UK adult population use a gym! Despite the enormity of publicity devoted to persuading us to exercise more,

the fact remains that most of us don't like gyms. In other words, most people are Gymophobic!

What is it that makes someone Gymophobic? We asked 200 women what it is that they dislike about using a conventional gym. 73% said

that they found gyms intimidating. 69% said that they did not want to exercise alongside men and a further 39% said that they found most gyms to be full of young, slim, shapely girls who made them feel old and fat! 88% complained at lack of attention and advice" from Gym

Instructors and 55% said that gyms were too busy consuming. 61% said that gyms were expensive. 77% of women said that they did not feel fit enough to go to a gym and 49% said that they were too old!

Gymphobics

But things are very different at Gymphobics! Unlike conventional gyms, Gymphobics is not intimidating. There are no men on the all-ladies circuits and Gymphobics attracts thousands of women of all ages and all shapes and sizes. Members receive individual VIP attention from friendly, mature Instructors and the 30 minute workout means that almost everybody can find the time to attend. Unlike conventional gyms the Gymphobic programme is not demanding and requires no prior level of fitness. Even someone who has never exercised will find Gymphobics easy and fun.

Results are excellent! Most women lose a dress size in the first few weeks and go on to achieve a lovely figure. Gymphobics is fun and friendly which means that drop out rates are much lower than conventional gyms. People actually talk to each other at Gymphobics and there is a great social atmosphere which is enhanced by the varied social calendar, coffee mornings, charity occasions, etc. More than 70% of members renew their membership each year - more than twice the national average.



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To find out more call your nearest Gymphobics Centre.

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Compared to weight training and hydraulic machines, 'air resistance' is much more user friendly.

Resistance exercise is the best way to tone up and burn fat, but not all resistance equipment is the same. There are various ways to perform resistance exercise. The commonest form is known as 'weight training' or 'Isotonic' exercise (ISO = same/tonic = tension).

It is fair to say that women think of weight training as a masculine activity. They associate weight training with body building, and assume that it will build muscles! For a female slimmer, that's the last thing that they want to do!

Weight training first became popular with bodybuilders and circus strongmen in the 1800's. Most conventional gyms still use this method which involves using free weights (barbells or dumbbells), or weight training machines. At Gymphobics we use our unique air resistance machines.

Another form of resistance training involves using 'hydraulic' machines and these are used in many ladies 'circuit gyms'. But hydraulic machines unnaturally 'work' the muscles in both directions making exercise much harder. In normal activity, we either push or pull, but with hydraulic machines you must do both!

Another negative feature with hydraulic machines is that they deliver 'accommodating' resistance. This means the harder one tries to work (by pushing or pulling with greater force), the more resistance is met! The downside of this is that when you use hydraulics, exercise never gets any easier!

Here at Gymphobics there are no weight training or hydraulic machines on our circuit. 'Air resistance' machines are a much more pleasant option for delivering resistance without the risk of building unwanted muscle. Exercising on our air machines is so easy it has been described as 'pushing or pulling against a cushion of air'.

Each air machine is designed to exercise a different body part. The machines are designed to tighten and tone the body but not to build muscles and are smooth and easy to use, and they also eliminate the danger of over training and muscle strain. Unlike hydraulic machines, air machines model normal activity. The muscle shortens and contracts (concentrically), then lengthens and relaxes (eccentrically) and the resistance level on each air machine can be pre set to reflect the member's capability.



Many women find gyms and health clubs intimidating, that is why Gymphobics has a totally new approach to figure shaping and weight loss and won't give you a phobia.

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- "Lost 33 inches. Feel like me again, wearing clothes not worn for 4 years. Thanks for all the support!" **Sally - member 12499**

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Plea for patient transport to use bus lanes is rejected

A CALL for non-emergency ambulances to be able to use bus lanes has been rejected by county council chiefs.

Campaign group Patient Voice had asked that vehicles transporting patients should be allowed to use the restricted lanes to allow quicker trips.

But Oxfordshire County Council has said that it is not planning to take the idea forward. A county council spokesman said: "The council received a

request from Patient Voice, asking to allow bus lane usage by non-emergency patient transport vehicles.

"Although this issue has been raised previously, there is no clause in the relevant bus lane regulations that would allow this.

"Permission could only be permitted after a period of extensive, and probably expensive, public

consultation – which would be needed to alter the regulations.

"We understand that the proposed change would benefit users of non-emergency transport, but we have to prioritise schemes within our limited resources, so we won't currently be taking this idea forward." South Central Ambulance Service's Dianna Ball, said: "While it's

disappointing that this matter is not a priority for the council, we will continue to work towards a positive outcome."

She confirmed that the ambulance service would continue to seek permission to use the bus lanes in the future.

Patient Voice chairman Jacqueline Pearce-Gervis said she was "disappointed" with the decision, and called on the council to review its decision.

More drivers needed to ferry patients



Alan Evans and Stella Gardner, who are volunteers for the South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust's non-emergency patient transport service

A DROP in the number of volunteer ambulance drivers across Oxfordshire has sparked a plea for more help.

The county's 28 volunteer car drivers for the South Central Ambulance Service have driven 19,800 trips over the last year.

But in the last three years the number of volunteers in Oxfordshire has dropped from 45, in 2010, to 28 this year.

They take patients to and from outpatient appointments as part of the ambulance service's non-emergency patient transport service.

Senior operations manager at the patient transport service,

By Katriona Ormiston

Dianna Ball, said: "Often the treatment the patients are having puts them under significant stress.

"To offer them a car that takes them from their home to their appointment has a big impact – helping them with their condition.

Ms Ball said that most volunteers were either semi-retired or retired.

She said: "I think the drop in volunteer numbers is the result of people having to work longer into retirement than they used to."

Volunteer driver Alan Evans and his partner, Stella Gardner, have been volunteering for 13 and eight years respectively.

Mr Evans said: "I found it satisfying, trying to help people who are in need because of an illness.

"Unfortunately some are living on borrowed time, having to undergo radiotherapy or chemotherapy to help them prolong their life.

"At the end of their treatment, a lot of them write cards thanking drivers for making their journeys joyful.

"I meet some lovely people and always try to put a smile on their face.

"I wouldn't like to guess the number of people I have driven over the years – thousands probably."

Retired secretary Ms Gardner said: "Being a volunteer ambulance car driver, regularly taking patients for dialysis or radiotherapy, makes you grateful for your own health.

"And it's good to know that you're making a difference, making it easier for them to travel to and from appointments."

■ For information about becoming a volunteer car driver, call 01962 717 276 or email volunteer.cedriver@scas.nhs.uk

Business leaders greet drop in jobless figures

THE number of people claiming unemployment benefit in Oxfordshire has fallen to its lowest level in six months.

Latest figures from the Office for National Statistics show there were 6,471 people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in the county in May, the smallest number since last November and the third successive monthly drop.

Business leaders have welcomed the figures as a sign of continuing economic recovery in the county.

Margaret Coles, chairman of the Oxfordshire branch of the Federation of Small Businesses, said: "There is definitely more confidence in the local economy than a year ago. We are certainly seeing some green shoots of recovery.

"People's order books are fuller and firms are also taking on apprentices, which must be having an impact on the figures."

The statistics also show the number of people signing on fell by 357 compared to the April figures. There are now 824 fewer

people claiming benefit in the county than at the same time last year.

The district with the biggest annual fall in claimants is Cherwell where there are 302 fewer people on the dole than at the same time last year. The area with the lowest number of claimants is West Oxfordshire, where there are 864.

Nationally, the figure dropped by 8,600 to 1.5m while total unemployment, including those not on benefit, shrank by 5,000 to 2.5m.

Threat to our ancient trees

By Damian Fantato

MOST of Oxfordshire's ancient trees are at risk from pests and diseases, it has been claimed.

The Woodland Trust has said there are at least 15 pests and diseases – including ash dieback – which pose a threat to the 1,200 trees in Oxfordshire listed on its ancient tree register.

Some of these trees are more than 1,000 years old.

With trees now in leaf, the trust has called on local people to stay alert for signs of diseases.

Austin Brady, head of conservation at the trust, said: "Losing some trees to diseases and pests is all part of life and death in the forest, but to lose our precious ancient trees would be terrible."

"These huge stalwarts have taken centuries to grow and their loss would just be devastating, not only for the landscape but also for the environment."

"We need the public to help by getting into the great outdoors, looking at trees and checking them for signs of disease, so we have as accurate a picture of the situation as possible."

The trust estimates that more



Chestnut blight

than 800 of Oxfordshire's ancient trees are at risk from diseases such as ash dieback, chestnut blight and acute oak decline.

Its ancient tree register lists 115,000 specimens.

To find out more about spotting ash dieback and other diseases visit forestry.gov.uk



Ash dieback



Acute oak decline



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■ Anger at national slur as local service improves

111: We are hitting our targets now

By Tom Jennings

OXFORDSHIRE'S new non-emergency medical hotline – 111 – just missed hitting **Government performance targets but is getting better day by day.**

The service was rolled out in Oxfordshire in September and provides triage, advice and information to patients on non life-threatening issues.

It replaced NHS Direct and allows people to book out-of-hours GP appointments and dispatch ambulances for patients.

The Government's target was to answer 95 per cent of calls within 60 seconds. Oxfordshire managed 90 per cent, between September and May.

The service is commissioned by the GP-led Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) and run by South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS).

Oxfordshire joint health overview and scrutiny committee called in the

provider and commission to answer questions at a meeting last week.

OCCG associate director of strategy and governance Catherine Mountford said: "As a service, at the beginning, we did struggle. But there has been a significant improvement, particularly in March, April and May.

"The majority of the time now we are hitting, and often exceeding, that 95 per cent target."

She said the situation was monitored on a daily basis. The Government required commissioners to bring in the new 111 telephone service by April 1, but Oxfordshire adopted the service earlier than other areas. Some areas have still not adopted the service, so a national average for performance is not yet available.

Between the launch, on



Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group's Catherine Mountford

September 18 last year, and May 13, the service answered 116,838 calls in Oxfordshire.

Of these:

■ Six per cent resulted in an ambulance being dispatched. The national expectation was that up to ten per cent would require ambulances.

■ Three per cent were advised to attend A&E departments.

147 per cent were directed to primary care, such as a GP or an out-of-hours service.

■ 39 per cent were managed on the phone and required no further action.

A patient survey in February, when 196 people were quizzed, found 84 per cent were happy with the service and 89 per cent would recommend it to friends and family.

At the meeting, Susanna Pressel said that, given the 111 services was profit-making, OCCG had "done very well" to use SCAS.

She added: "We know on the national level people are saying they have lost confidence in the whole system, which is such a shame.

"If one area performs badly, people think the whole system is bad."

Nationally, 111 had been criticised for manning phones with untrained staff, a lack of staff, long delays in answering calls and computer problems.

The service was also blamed for causing a rise in people using A&E departments across the country.

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Lucy here on funny business

LIKE a marathon runner nearing the end of her race, comedienne Lucy Porter can see the finishing line in sight. She started touring in January and The Mill in Banbury is one of the last gigs on her schedule.

But no sooner does she finish this tour, than she starts the next one, preparing for her Edinburgh show and whipping the country up into another hilarious frenzy.

Except this time is different.

Gone is the laddish who

gave as good as she

got and stayed up

drinking with the

big boys after

every show.

Instead, Lucy

only

manages

two gigs

a week

now

By Katherine MacAlister

because she is a mum-of-two who wants to see her husband and children as much as she sees her audience.

That she has found a happy medium is down to ferociously good planning, a great family support unit, and new material that reflects her change in lifestyle.

But she admits that after two years off the comedy

circuit, her comeback was quite nerve-racking.

"Two years is a long time in showbusiness and I didn't know if I'd have to start from scratch again, so it's really gratifying and exciting to find lots of my fans have been waiting for me. You feel like you've been on the same journey because they came to see you in their 20s and are now there with a babysitter at home, so we have grown up together," she laughs.

Not that Lucy was ever going to give up comedy. The 40 year-old had come too far and done too well, she'd worked too hard to have babies and then just walk away. But, more importantly, she absolutely loves it.

"Stand-up comedy is such a lot of fun. People always ask how I can get up on stage and tell jokes to a bunch of strangers, but I love it and it's easy to make people laugh, especially in these times. It's

such a lot of fun and British audiences are the best in the world – they get comedy. But I couldn't get up and do a best man's speech

or a powerpoint presentation."

Lucy admits comedy is a labour of love but looks back on the early days in horror.

"It's not a glamorous career and you have to work hard. I remember driving for five hours to a gig in a Swansea working men's club, turning up, performing to the five people there, staying in a B&B with pubic hair in the bed and a sticky carpet, and then driving back to go to work the next morning.

"But I did a gig at Caesar's Palace in Vegas recently and thought 'this is as far away from the pubic hair in the bed scenario as you can possibly get'. The unfair thing is that the more famous you become, the easier it gets, because your audience is expecting to laugh so you are already halfway there. And being confident is vital.

"It's still a hard graft but you can talk about anything and make it funny and really good stand-up tends to be about what's important in your life and what irritates you, so I don't shy away from that."

Meaning that motherhood will

dominate her new show *People Person*?

"I wasn't going to talk about the kids and then I realised as I'd hardly left the house for the past two years it was all I knew.

"So it's a testament to where my brain was last year – there's lots about daytime TV, and the Argos online customer reviews," she giggles.

"But this year's Edinburgh show is noticeably less babycentric so I must have emerged from the fug of nappies."

So will Lucy be out partying?

"The Edinburgh Festival is always crazy – non-stop drinking and endless shows."

And now?

"Oh, now I'm so sensible," she laughs. "I did get absolutely hammered at the Glasgow Comedy Festival, but I'm a cheap date now – a crazy time for me is two-and-a-half-glasses of wine."

Sounds like the title of her next show.

■ Lucy Porter takes her comedy show *People Person* at The Mill in Banbury tomorrow, June 21. Call the box office on 01295 279002.

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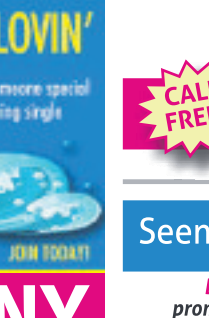
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Bruising reboot as hero Superman rides again

MAN OF STEEL (12A, 143 mins)
Action/Sci-Fi/Romance. Henry Cavill, Amy Adams, Michael Shannon, Kevin Costner, Diane Lane, Russell Crowe, Antje Traue, Laurence Fishburne, Ayelet Zurer, Cooper Timberline, Dylan Sprayberry. Director: Zack Snyder.

In the 35 years since Christopher Reeve took flight as *Superman*, the iconic hero has been laid to rest in a best-selling DC Comics storyline, endured teen angst in the long-running TV series *Smallville*, and stumbled in the 2006 blockbuster *Superman Returns*.

Last year, *Batman*, another DC Comics stalwart, hung up his cowl in the conclusion to Christopher Nolan's award-winning *Dark Knight* trilogy, so the time has come to resurrect Krypton's prodigal son.

Nolan's fingerprints as producer and storyline co-writer are evident on every digitally enhanced frame of Zack Snyder's film.

Man Of Steel is cast in the mould of *Batman Begins*, removing any traces of campiness or charm that distinguished the 1970s and 1980s big screen incarnations.

What remains is a bombastic and bruising reboot, punctuated by overblown set pieces, which traces the central character's journey from his war-ravaged home planet to the sun-kissed fields of Kansas.

It's a thrilling opening salvo that frequently quickens the pulse but seldom touches the heart.

In a protracted prologue, Kryptonian General Zod (Michael Shannon) and sadistic right-hand

woman Faora-Ul (Antje Traue) stage a coup on their doomed world.

Leading scientist Jor-El (Russell Crowe) escapes the melee and despatches his only son, Kal-El, to Earth with the help of wife, Lara (Ayelet Zurer).

"He'll be an outcast, a freak. They'll kill him!", she weeps.

"He'll be a god to them," Jor-El assures her.

With the child safe, Zod and his accomplices are captured and banished to the Phantom Zone.

Light years away, farmers Jonathan and Martha Kent (Kevin Costner, Diane Lane) raise the crash-landed infant and christen him Clark.

From an early age, Clark (played by Cooper Timberline and Dylan Sprayberry) realises he is different from the other children in Smallville.

He leaves home to seek his destiny and many years later, Clark (now played by Henry Cavill) is tracked down by plucky *Daily Planet* reporter Lois Lane (Amy Adams).

She agrees to keep his secret until war-mongering General Zod escapes the Phantom Zone and hovers ominously above Earth, issuing a chilling ultimatum to Kal-El: "Surrender within 24 hours or this world will suffer the consequences!"

Man Of Steel spares no expense with the pyrotechnics, including a breathless final showdown lasting around 30 minutes which leaves us physically spent.

Cavill has the rugged good looks



Henry Cavill as Superman, in a scene from the film *Man Of Steel*

Picture: PA Photo/Warner Bros Pictures

and impressive physique but his performance lacks emotion, alternating between chisel-jawed pensiveness and unbridled rage.

Thankfully, co-stars Shannon, Adams and Costner are in fine form, particularly the latter as the moral compass for young Clark.

And there are plenty more dark times ahead in a sequel and a film version of *Justice League*, which sees *Superman* fight alongside *Batman* and *Wonder Woman*.

Halcyon days for the rubber, PVC and spandex industries.

CakeWhat's on

Music

THURSDAY: The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton:

Brubecks Play Brubeck. Dave Brubeck's sons perform jazz classics and their own compositions. £17, conc £16. 7.45pm. 01608 642350 Mon-Fri 10-6pm, Sat 10am-2pm.

FRIDAY: Bonito's Wine Bar,

White Lion Walk, Banbury: Reggae night. 8.30pm-2am. Authentic roots music for dancing. Free admission. 01295 277766.

SATURDAY: The Mill Arts Centre, SpiceballPark, Banbury: Livewire. Six-man tribute to rock's AC/DC, complete with cannons and a wall of Marshalls. Standing event. £15. 8.30pm. 01295 279002.

Theatre

The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury:

Jun 21, Lucy Porter, People Person tour. Comedy to appeal to all ages. £12, concession £10. 7.30pm.

23 Jun, Dotty The Dragon.

Presented by Blunderbus Theatre Company. £6, family ticket £22 (4 tickets). 2pm and 4pm.

Jun 26, *Teachers*. John Godber's take on life at a modern comprehensive. Presented by Blackeyed Theatre in assoc. with South Hill Park. £12, concession £10. 7.30pm.

Box office: 01295 279002.

Sibford School (Holly House Gardens), Sibford Ferris:

Jun 26, *The Comedy of Errors*. Rain or Shine Theatre Company production 'bringing classics to local communities' is the ideal choice for a summer outdoor theatrical event. Bring a picnic and a rug. 7.30-10pm. £12.50, £10.50 concession, £6 child (5-15). 01295 781216.

The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton:

Jun 21, *Robert Newman*. New Theory of Evolution, stand up comedy from the *Newman and Baddiel* and *The Mary Whitehouse Experience* star. Preview of new material prior to UK tour. £12. 7.45pm.

Jun 22, *Something for the*

Weekend. The Theatre throws open its doors for a day of free and discounted events. 10am-6pm. Live music, dressing-up box, many activities. Box office: 01608 642350.

Events

SATURDAY: CreativeKIDz:

Function Room, The Unicorn, Market Place, Deddington. Events for children aged three years and older. Art4Kidz - 10am to noon - messy art fun with local art teachers and artists, suitable for pre-school and school age children. £2 per child £5 for three, £6 for four. 01869 338413.

Deddington Festival: Open Gardens, New Street and High Street, Deddington. Satin Lane allotments and castle grounds. Proceeds for Deddington Festival. About ten gardens, including a couple of new ones. Teas served in several. Pimms at the allotments. Tickets from The Flower Shop, Deddington. 2pm to 6pm. Admission £5, under-16s free (accompanied). 01869 338535.

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InBRIEF**Man admits burglaries**

■ A THIEF who admitted a string of Oxfordshire burglaries has had his sentencing postponed. Danny Lane, of The Beeches Mobile Home Park, Old London Road, Chipping Norton, pleaded guilty to seven domestic break-ins and four car thefts.

The 32-year-old also asked for a further 45 offences, mostly committed in Guildford, Surrey, to be taken into consideration by the court.

In Oxfordshire he confessed to carrying out his burglaries between January and May this year, targeting properties in Banbury, Chipping Norton, Enstone and Oxford.

He has been remanded in custody and will be sentenced at Oxford Crown Court on July 5.

Market date

■ DEDDINGTON Farmers' market will take place on Saturday, with around 50 stalls of locally-produced products. The Market Place event marks the start of the 2013 Deddington Festival, with music provided by the Andrew Rackham Trio.

The new man who is in charge of beating crime in Oxfordshire

We must work together, says new police chief

By Ben Wilkinson

THE new head of the county's police has asked people to work with his officers to help beat crime in Oxfordshire.

New Assistant Chief Constable Chris Shead said residents needed to trust and talk to officers to help Thames Valley Police learn more about what criminals were up to.

He said: "Policing is something everybody has to get behind. It needs people to talk to the police, tell us what's going on.

"I would also say work with us. Trust in us. We are there to help assist you.

"It's a joint effort. We cannot do it on our own. We need the help of everybody in the county."

ACC Shead's main responsibility is operations for both the Thames Valley and Hampshire forces. This role puts him in charge of large police operations surrounding big events, including music festivals. He is also in charge of roads policing, firearms, and the police horse and dog units.

Last month, seven members of an organised gang were convicted of grooming and sexually abusing

vulnerable girls as young as 11 in Oxfordshire. The abuse lasted for eight years, despite some of the victims reporting it to police and social services.

ACC Shead said the "complex" and "challenging" Operation Bullfinch investigation had taught the force the importance of working together with social workers and schools.

He said: "As a professional organisation, we strive to learn from an experience, whether it be good or bad."

And he said the force had done well to achieve the convictions.

The ACC said crime-fighting priorities in the county were the same as across in the region – as laid out in Police and Crime Commissioner Anthony Stansfeld's police and crime plan. The four-year plan is aimed at seeing domestic burglaries and violent crimes against individuals fall by two per cent.

But he said a challenge for

policing in Oxfordshire was the "sheer size" of the county. He added: "There is a big rural community in Oxfordshire. There is a lot of country areas, a lot of areas to police geographically."

He said he wanted to see a bigger police presence in those rural areas, as concerns targeting farms was a theme. He said: "It is something I will be keeping a keen eye on."

ACC Shead joined the force in 2006 having worked for the Metropolitan Police and the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

He was the chief superintendent heading up the joint operations unit for the Thames Valley and Hampshire since 2011 and was also the commander for West Berkshire, Slough, and the former Basic Command Unit in Berkshire West.

He took over from John Campbell, who is now ACC for Crime and Counter Terrorism, after Helen Ball left to join the Metropolitan Police in November.

Chief Constable Sara Thornton said: "I am delighted to welcome Chris to the chief officer team."



Assistant Chief Constable Chris Shead

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Hawkes leads way in a high-scoring draw



Banbury's Nathan Hawkes, who made 83

BATSMEN dominated as Banbury's Division 1 game at home to Slough ended in a high-scoring draw.

With a fluent Nathan Hawkes leading the way, Banbury rattled up 269-8 from 62 overs, before the visitors replied with 228-6 off 51.

A short break for rain reduced the number of overs in the first match of the campaign to be played over a scheduled maximum of 120.

Inserted by Slough, Banbury

soon lost opener Lloyd Sabin, but were thereafter in little trouble.

Ed Phillips and Craig Haupt added 56 for the second wicket, the latter's 47 coming off 51 balls with ten cleanly-struck fours.

But the major innings came from Hawkes, who scored 83 from 88 deliveries, hitting six fours and a six.

Richard West and Jonny Cater maintained the momentum against an attack,

in which seamer Raja Nawaz shone with 5-61.

In reply, Slough struggled early on, off-spinner Jimmy Phillips claiming two victims as they slipped to 85-4.

However, Shahid Yusuf took control with 90 not out from 107 balls, having little trouble coping with the Banbury spinners including Luke Ryan.

There was a glimmer of hope for Banbury at 172-6, but Slough did not lose another wicket,

LATEST TABLES

Division 1										
	P	W	D	L	A	B	Pts			
Henley	6	5	0	0	1	0	131			
Harpenden	6	5	0	1	0	6	131			
Tring Park	5	4	0	2	0	8	108			
Banbury	6	2	1	3	0	27	80			
Slough	6	2	1	3	0	23	76			
H Wycombe	6	2	0	3	1	12	70			
N Mymsms	6	2	0	3	1	14	70			
Welwyn	6	2	0	3	1	7	63			
Potters Bar	6	1	0	4	1	13	49			
Burnham	6	1	0	4	1	15	46			
Division 2 West										
	P	W	D	L	A	B	Pts			
Oxford	6	4	1	1	0	10	113			
Great Tew	6	4	0	1	1	5	111			
Reading	6	3	1	2	0	20	98			
Gerrards X	6	3	1	2	0	19	97			
A Rowant	6	3	0	2	1	9	90			
Harefield	6	2	0	2	2	9	71			
Cove	6	2	1	3	0	16	69			
Dinton	6	2	0	4	0	16	66			
Farnham Ryl	6	2	1	3	0	9	62			
Falkland	6	0	1	5	0	27	30			

SCOREBOARD

BANBURY										
L Sabin c Jamshed b Butt	.....	4								
E Phillips b Sher	.....	41								
C Haupt c Rana b Ali	.....	47								
N Hawkes b Nawaz	.....	83								
R West c Khan b Nawaz	.....	46								
J Cater not out	.....	29								
L Ryan c Baig b Nawaz	.....	3								
A Blanchard b Nawaz	.....	3								
B Barends c&b Nawaz	.....	7								
O Wright not out	.....	0								
Extras	.....	6								
Total (8 wks, 62 ovs)	.....	269								
Fall: 1-7, 2-63, 3-138, 4-217, 5-234, 6-243, 7-250, 8-268.										
Bowling: Nawaz 14-3-61-5, Butt 20-4-67-1, Sher 14-1-70-1, Ali 5-0-25-1, Zaman 9-0-44-0.										
SLOUGH										
O Jamshed c Sabin b Phillips	.....	24								
W Hussain c Cater b Wright	.....	37								
S Khan lbw Phillips	.....	8								
Z Sher b Wright	.....	5								
S Yusuf not out	.....	90								
F Baig lbw Ryan	.....	28								
R Zaman c&b West	.....	13								
S Rana not out	.....	8								
Extras	.....	15								
Total (6 wks, 51 ovs)	.....	228								
Fall: 1-63, 2-76, 3-82, 4-86, 5-135, 6-172.										
Bowling: Barends 7-0-34-0, Wright 11-2-46-2, Blanchard 2-0-13-0, West 6-0-21-1, Phillips 12-1-48-2, Ryan 13-0-54-1.										
● Banbury 13pts, Slough 9										

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ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

There are a lot of people that want to be a part of your life and for once you are able to pick and choose at your discretion. Just make sure you remember that you are a sign who needs a physical and mental attraction both together. Accept second best and you'll live as second class. Daring to ask for more on Thursday brings about a miracle. Call now to hear which signs are a match for you.

0906 585 4360

LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

Talks you have in your career this week help you to shape your career. More so than has been possible in the last three months. Don't push too hard in business on Wednesday when it is proving hard for you to see that others are working with you, not against you. Official documents bring closure before Friday. Phone me now to hear how love will soon have you pleasantly surprised.

0906 585 4366

TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

Happy times can be found if you're willing to take down this act you're putting on and experience each day rather than just analyzing it. A promise you made earlier this month proves hard to get rid of. If you're planning on twisting the truth, do it subtly. Your smile often gives you away before your words, Taurus. Give me a call to better use the agility which Mercury can offer.

0906 585 4361

SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

Keep the standards nice and high Scorpio. You would be a fool to go back to the past, wouldn't you? Don't you remember when you accepted second best? It took a long time to get back to where you are so keep all eyes forward. New and improved ways to do your job could see you deciding to take your skills somewhere new. Ring now to hear where your destiny lies.

0906 585 4367

GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

Too much emotion and not enough fact has caused some flared tempers and raw emotions. Tuesday and Wednesday are your best days for peace talks, even though it's not you who should make the apology. You can arrange a face to face to let others say their piece. Unexpected visitors come with an offer worth considering.

0906 585 4362

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22-Dec 21

Just because someone in your past let you down, does not necessarily mean that those in your present will. I know it's hard for you to think otherwise, but relationship success this month really does depend on you allowing yourself to trust again. Exams and tests go well if you can separate personal from professional by Thursday. Call now to hear about your future.

0906 585 4368

CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

Someone in the family or close to you is hiding some pretty big news which will finish why it is they've been acting so strangely in recent weeks. Let them explain what they have to say before you start judging them. Your stubborn nature could interfere with their coming clean. Call now to hear why major names of cities or firms link up to a project you're about to become involved in.

0906 585 4363

CAPRICORN

Dec 22-Jan 19

You may not like all of the new faces who have come into your life, but you only have to tolerate them, not live with them. Besides Capricorn, aspects suggest you have more in common than you think. A gamble in your career is worth taking but only if you come clean to those it may affect in the process first. Ring me now to hear why you're more psychic than usual this month.

0906 585 4369

LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

Venus could see you avoiding work issues in order to concentrate on a personal issue. Just make sure you're not setting standards which you will not want to live by at a later date. The Moon makes you over emotional on Friday when you say things you don't really mean. Bear this in mind when making declarations of any kind. Call me now to look at life and love together.

0906 585 4364

AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

You find yourself being asked lots of questions and being forced to give answers you find hard to remember. Take a deep breath and take your time. What's occurring at this time is only with your best interest at heart. The sooner you realise this, the better my friend. Health problems improve with a better day to day diet. Ring now to hear how overseas links soon call out to you.

0906 585 4370

VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

Mercury helps you to present the ideas you've been having to the people who can turn them into a reality. Don't be side-tracked into something which, although financially interesting, could never satisfy your professional appetite long term. Your stubborn nature could interfere with family plans this weekend. For once, back down. Call now to hear why it's worth giving others more leeway this week.

0906 585 4365

PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

Jealousy over something you do not have is casting you in a difficult light. Stop worrying so much about what other people think and concentrate instead on what you really want from life. Going back to the drawing board over a financial issue before Friday can see you coming up with a profitable scheme indeed. Give me a call now to manage the emotions the stars are placing within you.

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Jag delivers best of both worlds

By David Duffy

FOR years, Jaguar has been firmly off limits for family motorists. If you wanted that dynamic leaping cat logo it would either have to be on a saloon or sports car – neither of them likely to endear you to a tribe anxious to cram a car with camping or leisure equipment.

Then along came the estate version of the X-Type; capacious and capable, but hardly the world's most dynamically-styled car.

Now there is the XF Sportbrake, an altogether larger, leather-trimmed, air conditioned load-lugger that would give any estate car a run for its money in carrying capacity, and blows most of them out of the water for pure head-turning looks. Long and seductively sleek, with all the muscular elegance and luxury of the saloon, it crucially retains its dynamic handling and sheer driveability.

Everything about the Sportbrake is designed to make life easier for the driver, and more comfortable for the passengers, ensuring that, even on day trips in excess of 300 miles, everyone emerges fresh and relaxed.

All versions are fitted as standard with self-levelling air suspension at the rear to replace the coil springs fitted to the saloon, giving a smooth ride and sharp handling, while keeping the car level even when

fully loaded. Features include adaptive front lighting, which deflects headlamp beams into corners, while headlamps automatically switch between low and high beam.

Adaptive cruise control enables the XF Sportbrake to monitor vehicles around it, automatically braking should a slower vehicle be ahead, then resuming the pre-set speed once the road is clear.

Operating with the cruise control system is an emergency brake system that, in the event of detecting the necessity for a severe stop, applies maximum braking force.

The Sportbrake is all about space, but the increased carrying capacity also improves life for passengers, as the extended roofline gives more headroom to those in the rear seat.

Remote-fold levers inside the load-space opening allow the split-fold rear seats to be stowed flat, creating a space of up to 1,675 litres.

Auto facts

Model: Jaguar XF Sportbrake 2.2 Diesel Portfolio
Price: £44,690
Insurance group: 40 (1-50)
Fuel consumption (Combined): 55.4mpg
Top speed: 134mph
Length: 496.6cm/195.5in
Width: 187.7cm/74in
Luggage capacity: 17.6 cu ft
Fuel tank capacity: 15.4 gallons/70.1l
CO₂ emissions: 139g/km
Warranty: 3 years/unlimited mileage



CLASSY CARRIER: The Jaguar Sportbrake has huge touring ability and a stylish presence

Acknowledging that the XF Sportbrake is likely to be used primarily as a long-distance hauler, power comes exclusively from Jaguar's diesel engines, driving the rear wheels through an eight-speed automatic gearbox.

Luxury touches inside range from a 12-speaker Meridian audio system and a powered tailgate, to colour satellite navigation, and front seats that are both heated and cooled.

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Newcarscene

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THE new Nissan Micra has been updated with fresh styling, new technology and a significantly revised interior.

Both the front and rear looks have changed, including not just headlights but the surrounding panels as well. The design now more closely echoes that of the big-selling Juke.

Mid-range Micras ride on a new design of 15in alloy wheel, with the 16in upgrades on higher trim levels also a new style.

Two new colours have been added: Pacific Blue, which according to Nissan is a shade of

turquoise, and Platinum Sage, which sounds like a green-tinted silver.

On the inside, the instrument cluster has been changed to give greater legibility and clarity at a glance. It's just one of many improvements that take in an all-new centre console with new air vents and a gloss black finish.

On the dashboard, drivers will now find USB and 3.5mm auxiliary sockets for portable electronics. There is also a 12-volt socket for recharging other devices.

Visia is still the entry-level grade,

with remote central locking, electric front windows, power steering, 14in wheels, a radio and CD player and a full complement of safety equipment including dual front, side and curtain bags, ABS and ESP.

Mid-range Acenta trim adds chrome accents, body colour door mirrors and handles, 15in wheels, a roof spoiler, air conditioning, front fog lights, a driver's armrest, a leather-covered steering wheel, Bluetooth connectivity and automatic control for the headlights and wipers.

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2003 53	CITROEN C3 1.4 SX, Silver, 5 Door, PAS, Electric windows, Remote central locking, Radio CD, Lovely through out, Sold with a new MOT and a full service and a new cambelt kit, HPI clear.....	£2,495
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diesel, alarm, CD,
1.6 Zetec, rear
sensors, new tyres
added (2), under
manufacturers
warranty, MOT'd to
show good working
order, 33,000 miles.

07909 827884

£7,500

FORD MONDEO

2.0TDCi 115
LX Hatchback
5d, Dec 2006,
Silver, 1998C,
Diesel, Manual,
A/C, Airbag,
Alarm, ABS,
CD, C/L, Cruise
Control, E/M,
E/W, PAS,
RC/L, Tax and
Mot

07787 862266

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**FORD FOCUS
ZETEC 1.8**

2000 W, met
blue, 5 door, 12
months MOT,
alloys, petrol,
good condition.

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£695 ono

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Tax, tow bar,
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SPORT**



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Speed Manual
Petrol, C/RL, Alarm,
Alloys, CD, lovely
car, baby forces
sale 70000 miles

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FREELANDER**

TD4 E, 2004,
met. green, 5
speed, manual,
diesel, 5dr,
C/RL, e-wds,
alarm/immob,
tow bar, VGC,
MOT Oct,
61,800 miles

01980 630658

£3,650

Mazda

MAZDA 2



Red, 2009, 5
speed, manual,
petrol, 29,500
miles, one owner,
VGC, Mazda FSH.
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too small.

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£5,250

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C220 CDI SE**



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under 55,000 miles,
air con, pas, abs,
esp, cruise control,
em, cd, taxed & mot
Sept 2013, bargain,
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07702 232884

£4,995 ovno

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C240 SPORT**



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1999 Petrol,
4 door, 116,909
miles,
MOT & Taxed
Trowbridge

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MERCEDES E320

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and overall
condition
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164000.
MOT,TAXED
DIESEL

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TRADE MOTORS SALES 01865 425306	Vauxhall VAUXHALL CORSA Red, 2004, Manual, Deisel (a/c), Hatchback 5 door, MOT & Tax Sept '13, 74,000 miles, FSH 07974 773960 £1900 ono	Vauxhall VAUXHALL VECTRA ELITE CDi 16v. Silver. 94,000 miles. 12 mnth MOT, Taxed May 13. S History. 2 owners. Sat nav mesg cent, traffic master info. New front brake pads + discs. Good condition. Tel: 01367 252084 £3,495 ono	Volvo VOLVO V40S  2002 Manual, 1.8 Petrol, estate, new Mot, Towbar, clean condition 07973219629 £795	banburycake.co.uk/jobs banburycake.co.uk/jobs  WHICH WAY WILL YOU GO.....?
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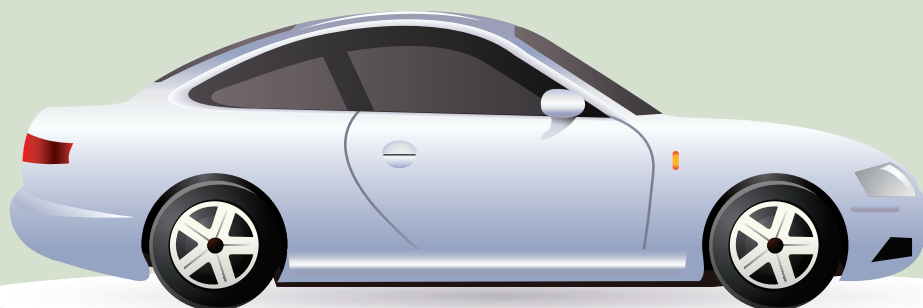
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